ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ

ಸೋಮವಾರ 5ನೇ ಜನವರಿ 2004 ರಂದು

ಸದನವು ವಿಧಾನಸೌಧದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆಯ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ

ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11-05 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸಮಾವೇಶಗೊಂಡಿತು

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು (ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ.ವಿ. ವೆಂಕಟಪ್ಪ) ರವರು

ಪೀಠವನ್ನು ಅಲಂಕರಿಸಿದ್ದರು

1) ವಿಧಾನಮಂಡಲದ ಉಭಯ ಸದನಗಳನ್ನುದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಮಾಡಿದ ಭಾಷಣ

ಘನವೆತ್ತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಟಿ.ಎನ್. ಚತುರ್ವೇದಿಯವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ಸಂಯುಕ್ತಾಧಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆಯ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ 5ನೇ ಜನವರಿ 2004ರ ಸೋಮವಾರದಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.05 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಭಾಷಣ.

ಘನವೆತ್ತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ವಿಧಾನಸೌಧದ ಮುಖ್ಯದ್ವಾರದ ಬಳಿ ಇರುವ ದ್ವಾರ ಮಂಟಪಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗಮಿಸಿದರು. ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ತಮ್ಮ ಕಾರಿನಿಂದ ಇಳಿದ ಬಳಿಕ ಅವರನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಧಾನಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರು (ಪ್ರಭಾರ) ಸ್ವಾಗತಿಸಿದರು. ನಂತರ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾಗದ ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಲುಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಆಗಮಿಸಿದರು. ನಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಟಿ. ರಾಜಣ್ಣ
ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆಯ
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಜಯಶಂಕರಮೂರ್ತಿ
ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರು (ಪ್ರಭಾರ)

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ.ವಿ. ವೆಂಕಟಪ್ಪ
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಎಲ್. ಶಂಕರ್
ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಟಿ.ಎನ್. ಚತುರ್ವೇದಿ
ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು
ಎ.ಡಿ.ಸಿ.

ಈ ರೀತಿಯ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯು ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆಯ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಆಗಮಿಸಿತು. ಸಭಾಂಗಣದ ದ್ವಾರದ ಬಳಿ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆ ಬಂದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಆಗಮನವನ್ನು ಮಾರ್ಷಲ್‌ರವರು ಸಭೆಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು ಮತ್ತು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗೀತೆಯನ್ನು ನುಡಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಸದನವನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಳ್ಳುವತನಕ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳು ಎದ್ದು ನಿಂತುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.

ಸಭಾ ಸದನದ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಬಂದ ಬಳಿಕ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯು ಎರಡು ಭಾಗವಾಗಿ ಬೇರ್ಪಟ್ಟಿತು. ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಬಲಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರು ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಎಡಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು. ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮಧ್ಯಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿನ ಆಸನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು. ಉಭಯ ಸದನಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳವರು ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಂದುಗಡೆ ಇರುವ ಆಸನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು.

(ನಂತರ ಘನವೆತ್ತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ತಮ್ಮ ಭಾಷಣವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದರು)

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರೇ, ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೇ ಹಾಗೂ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೇ,

1. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನಮಂಡಲದ ಜಂಟಿ ಅಧಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಮ್ಮನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ಸ್ವಾಗತಿಸಲು ನನಗೆ ತುಂಬಾ ಸಂತೋಷವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಜನತೆಯ ಆಶೋತ್ತರಗಳನ್ನು ಈಡೇರಿಸಲು ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪುನರಾವಲೋಕನ ಮಾಡುವ ಹಾಗೂ ನಮ್ಮ ರಾಜ್ಯವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಿರವಾಗಿ ಮುನ್ನಡೆಸುವ ನಮ್ಮ ಗುರಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಮಗಿರುವ ಬದ್ಧತೆಯನ್ನು ಇನ್ನೂ ಸಮರ್ಥ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಇದು ಸಕಾಲ.

2. ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಇದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಾವಕಾಶಗಳು, ಸೇವಾ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ದಿಮೆಗಳ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲಕರ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಇವುಗಳ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನಗಳನ್ನು ನಾವು ಕೃಷಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

3. ಎಲ್ಲ ಧರ್ಮಗಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೋಮುಗಳ ಜನರ ಭಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗೌರವಿಸುವಂಥ ಆಡಳಿತವನ್ನು ನೀಡುವ ದೃಢ ನಂಬಿಕೆ ನನ್ನ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕಿದೆ. ಈ ಅವಧಿಯು ಕೋಮು ಸೌಹಾರ್ದತೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ದೃಢವಾದ ಆದರೆ ದಯಾಪರವಾದ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ಸುವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಉದಾಹರಣೆಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ನಿಮಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲು ತುಂಬಾ ಸಂತೋಷವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮ ಸನ್ನಿವೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮರ್ಥವಾಗಿ ನಿಭಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಂತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುಭದ್ರತೆ ನೆಲೆಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ನನ್ನ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು, ವೃದ್ಧರು, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಹಾಗೂ ದುರ್ಬಲ ವರ್ಗದವರ ಒಳಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಆದ್ಯ ಗಮನ ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಜೀವನ ನಡೆಸಲು ಅಗತ್ಯವಾದ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ನನ್ನ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ಸುವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ದಕ್ಷತೆಯಿಂದ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಬೇಕಾಗುವ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಗತ್ಯವನ್ನು ಮನಗಂಡಿದೆ. ಈ ದಿಸೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದರಿಂದ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಕೊರತೆ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

4. Connectivity is one of the most important requirements for an effective and efficient police administration. As a step towards this, all the 27 districts are now fully wired to the State headquarters and computers installed in 809 police stations. My Government proposes to take this forward so that the common citizen of the State derives benefit from technology in the area of safety and security to both life and property.

5. Our State faces an unenviable spectre of fourth consecutive year of drought. My Government has been alert in anticipating and responding to the plight of the people especially in the rural areas. It is the sheer endurance of the common man that has filled us with renewed hope and commitment to go ahead with our efforts in combating drought.

6. A Cabinet Sub committee was constituted in 2002 to marshal preparations to face the drought in the State. This Committee is constantly monitoring the situation and evolving strategies for tackling crisis.

7. My Government would like to acknowledge the gesture on the part of the Government of India in lending assistance to tackle drought in the State. However, we would have felt relieved if the Government of India gave what we asked for. In terms of cash assistance, our State got Rs.115.86 crores as against our request for Rs.1881.55 crores for the period April to October 2003. Similarly, 1.65 lakh tons of foodgrains was received as against our demand for 9.9 lakh tons. For the period from November 2003 to June 2004, we have requested for Rs.2877 crores and 15.6 lakh tons of foodgrain. We have received 1.65 lakh tons of foodgrain so far. The cash assistance would come in after the team visits our State during January 2004. I take this opportunity to request the Government of India to consider our request, given the gravity of the situation.

8. Provision of drinking water is one of the high priorities of my Government. This is critical in view of the drought situation in the State. I am happy to share with you that we are fully geared up to tackle the impending water scarcity. A comprehensive strategy including rejuvenation of borewells, flushing and hydrofracturing is being adopted. Transportation of water is being done wherever there is a crisis. I take this opportunity to assure that my Government would take all possible steps to ensure that water is made available to the common citizen.

9. I am happy to share with you that an amount of Rs. 115 crores has been released to take remedial measures to ensure supply

of water to habitations which are facing acute shortage. These include transportation, hydrofracturing and replacement of pipes etc. wherever necessary. These measures would alleviate the problems faced by the people to a large extent.

10. As a long term strategy, we have taken up systematic planning and development of ground water resources in 2003-04. To assess the available ground water, 500 peizometers and installation of digital water level recorders have been completed. The Karnataka Ground Water (Regulation and Protection of Sources of Drinking Water) Bill which was passed by both the Houses of Legislature in 1999, has since received the Presidential assent in October 2003. This will go a long way in ensuring the judicious use of groundwater resources.

11. To augment the existing water resources, my Government took up desilting works in 282 tanks, kalyanis etc. under the Food for Work program. It is proposed to construct 50,221 structures in 58 under-developed talukas with the financial assistance of Rs. 471 crores from the World Bank. The objective is to improve ground water resources over a period of five years.

12. My Government is committed to reforms in the revenue sector. With effect from April 2003, Kaveri e-Governance has been introduced in the department of Registration and Stamps. In the first phase 175 sub registrar offices have been computerized. The remaining 27 would be completed by January 2004. The response time for receiving a document has now been reduced to 30 minutes.

13. I am happy to share with you that Karnataka has been a pioneer in stamp reform. Much before any other State in the country acted upon it, we were the first to abolish stamp paper with effect from 1.4.2003. The Stamps and Registration department is now the third largest revenue earner and has realized Rs. 806 crores as against the target of Rs. 1354 crores from the period April 2003.

14. Section 94 of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act 1964 has been amended to facilitate regularization of unauthorized cultivation in Government lands. 10.90 lakh applications were received in form

50. Out of this, 10.54 lakh applications have been cleared regularizing 3.76 lakh acres. 10.92 lakh applications were received under Section 94-B. Out of this, 4.77 lakh applications have been cleared, regularizing 1.27 lakh acres of land.

15. The unprecedented drought conditions in the State have made life very difficult for the farmers of the State. The delay in the onset of the southwest monsoon and the subsequent failure of rains during July and September resulted in only 84% of the khariff area being covered. Crops sown over 24.35 lakh hectares were subjected to severe moisture stress resulting in crop loss. After an initial good rainfall in October, the dry spell continues and 34.92 lakh hectares Rabi crop is suffering. 12.28 lakh hectares are under severe moisture stress. These seasonal conditions have had an adverse impact on the production of foodgrains, oil seeds, pulses, sugarcane, tobacco and cotton.

16. My Government is sensitive and committed to give the much needed succor to our farmer brethren who are facing the onslaught of nature. The Farmers package involving Rs.880 crores is a step in this direction. The package of measures include waiving of interest on cooperative loans taken by the farmers, waiving of outstanding power dues as on 31.3.01 in respect of irrigation pumpsets, extending lease of tanks to fishermen for one more year, full remission of water rate and maintenance cess for 2002-03 etc.

17. Crop insurance cover is being extended to provide relief to the farmers. During the year 2001-02, Rs.134 crores was paid to over 3.33 lakh farmers in the State. The relief amount has been estimated at Rs.268 crores for the kharif 2002 . Of this, claims worth 114 crores have already been settled. The remaining would be settled shortly. For rabi/summer 2002-03, relief amount is estimated to be Rs.28 crores as per the General Insurance Corporation of India.

18. My Government is implementing various programs to bring technology to the rural areas so that our farmer brethren share the benefits of modern technology and farming practices. During 2003-04, three new programs relating to Drip irrigation, Farm mechanization and Organic farming are being implemented.

19. My Government is firmly committed to provide for access to information and markets to the farmer at his doorstep. The Raitha Samparka Kendras is a major intervention in this direction. During 2003-04, around 10 lakh farmers made use of these kendras. The "Raitha Santhe" is aimed at eliminating middlemen and providing access to the markets directly.

20. Unscientific use of plant protection chemicals has led to increased levels of pollution. Cotton crop alone accounts for 50% of this. I am happy to share that we have taken up training of facilitators in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome in eight districts.

21. My Government attaches high importance to Watershed development , since almost 70% of the area available for cultivation in the State is dependent entirely on monsoon. The World Bank aided Sujala programme, and the NABARD assisted Watershed development programme are being implemented in the State. I am happy to state that my Government is on the anvil of bringing out a comprehensive Drought proofing plan to anticipate and plan for the vagaries of nature. The proposed project aims at resource conservation and steps to arrest further land degradation. The focus of the project is to provide supplementary and alternative income generating opportunities to landless and marginal farmers and women by taking up activities of resource conservation and watershed management, thereby creating a win-win situation for both the environment as well as the community.

22. To give a fillip to animal husbandry sector, it is decided to start an University for Animal Sciences in Bidar, during the current year. An amount of 5 crores is allocated for this purpose. The construction of Gangolli Fishing harbour, Mangalore Phase II Fishing harbour and Karwar Phase II harbor have been taken to strengthen the fisheries sector.

23. My Government recognizes the potential and the crucial role played by the horticulture sector in the economy of the State. This has been one of our priority areas. To give a fillip especially in the face of drought, my Government has provided for 100% subsidy

in the drought affected areas. Apart from this 50% subsidy is being given for drip irrigation with a provision of Rs.10 crores. Over the last four years, more than 33000 hectares of horticulture crops have been brought under drip irrigation involving around Rs. 52 crores. Drought proofing measures costing Rs. 20 crores have also been taken up.

24. As a further proof of commitment towards this sector, measures like the establishment of Bio technology centre, involving the private sector in seed production and promotion of organic farming have been taken up. Tissue culture is also given a boost with over one million seeds produced through tissue culture being distributed every year. All these have resulted in an incremental increase of over 60,000 hectares under horticulture over the last four years. A Biotechnology center is proposed to be established in northern Karnataka for promotion of tissue culture, vermin compost and biofertilisers and facilities for water analysis.

25. The Lalbagh and Cubbon Park are the most popular symbols of our State, of which we are proud of. I am happy to inform you that we have taken up a massive facelift of Lalbagh and Cubbon Park involving a cost of Rs. 15 crores.With a view to strengthen the process of horticulture commercialization, post harvest handling is being given a major thrust. Subvention on the electric power consumed by cold storages has been provided. For the first time, a market intervention program to lend a helping hand to Copra, Areca and Potato farmers has been taken up. Horticulture exports are on the rise, with gherkin, rose onion and commercial floriculture accounting for over Rs. 100 crores of exports annually. Establishment of AEZs has given fillip to floriculture industry. A mega fruit and vegetable market complex with modern facilities is coming at Kannamangala near Whitefield and the State Government is supporting the NDDB in this venture.

26. Our State is blessed with valuable forests rich in flora and fauna covering around 20% of the geographical area of the State. My Government is committed towards protection of these valuable natural assets which are a source of livelihood to both human and animal life.

27. During the last four years, my Government has undertaken afforestation activity in over 1.54 lakh hectares in the State. More than 1600 lakh seedlings have been distributed to private lands. The Vanavikasa Yojane has been an important measure to spread the green cover in the State. Under this 348 lakh seedlings have been distributed in the last three years with active involvement of the local communities. Another major step in the direction of conservation of forests with people's participation, has been the forming of Village Forest committees. Over 3779 committees have been formed in the State which are involved in joint forest management and planning. Apart from this, the National Afforestation Program is being implemented and the Government of India has approved 35 projects covering over 50,000 hectares with an outlay of close to Rs.100 crores.

28. My Government has also simplified the rules for growing and disposal of sandalwood. The LAMP societies have been constituted to assist the tribal people for collection of the minor forest produce. As a reflection of our commitment towards the rehabilitation of the tribals in the forest areas, my government has rehabilitated more than 1086 families including tribals living inside National Parks and Wildlife sanctuaries. I take this opportunity to reiterate our commitment to provide for viable options for the displaced tribals. We would spare no effort to ensure that peace prevails in the Malnad area.

29. As a step towards conservation of animal life, my Government has constituted the Zoo Authority. The Wildlife Tourism Policy is on the anvil and we propose to start a Butterfly Park in Bannerghatta National Park.

30. My Government has taken several initiatives for improving the environment. The Lake Development Authority, while making commendable progress in the conservation of lakes has opened avenues for public private partnership in lake restoration and conservation.

31. The ever increasing pollution levels especially in urban areas is a matter of concern for all of us. For improving the air quality

an action plan for reducing particulate matter levels, has been prepared. 5% ethanol blended petrol is being supplied in the entire State, as a step towards improving the quality of fuel, which could otherwise be a major pollutant. Apart from this, steps are underway to use other bio fuels like pongamia and jathropa oils as auto fuels.

32. Awareness and sensitivity towards environment should start at a young age for these to become part of individual values. To inculcate this awareness, 2700 eco clubs have been opened in all Government schools and efforts are on to incorporate environment issues in the school curriculum.

33. Hon'ble Members are aware that we are entering the centenary year of the Co-operative movement. The first agricultural credit cooperative society was set up in Kanaginahal in Gadag district in 1905 by Siddanagowda Sannaramanagowda Patil. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has been requested to form a National Committee to celebrate the centenary of the Co-operative movement in a befitting manner.

34. My Government has launched a unique scheme called the "Yeshaswini Co-operative Farmers health scheme" aimed at providing health insurance cover to farmers in co-operatives. Around 16 lakh farmers have enrolled for this scheme. As on date, 5000 surgeries have been done in hospitals identified for this purpose and 21000 farmers have availed of outpatient facilities in these hospitals.

35. Special emphasis is given for setting up co-operative sugar factories. The Mahatma Gandhi SSK, Naranja SSK and Krishna SSK have become operational. Five other co-operative sugar factories will go into production in 2004.

36. To ensure a minimum support price and to prevent distress sale, the Government has formulated the Floor Price Scheme. This aims at supplementing the procurement operations of the GOI to 13 identified commodities under the MSP scheme and those not covered under the MSP scheme. A revolving fund of Rs. 106 crores has already been mobilized and this is being increased to Rs. 200 crores. We are now in a position to procure commodities worth Rs. 350 crores.

37. The Self Help Group programme (SHG) has been a phenomenal success in Karnataka. Over 55,000 groups have been formed and I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that the participation of women is very high. The recovery rate from SHGs is more than 90%.

38. Under the Kisan Credit card scheme, ten lakh farmers have been enrolled. Instant access to market information is a pre-requisite for farmers, traders and market functionaries to operate at optimum levels as well as plan out for profitable ventures. To facilitate this, we have started the Krishi Marata Vahini – the online Agricultural marketing channel.

39. All of us here can be proud of the fact that Karnataka has been the pioneer in democratic decentralisaiton in the country and has led many a change in bringing the government closer to the people. My Government is strongly committed towards continuing this endeavour. As many as 47 amendments have been affected to the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act with the twin objectives of facilitating people's participation as well as making the PRIs more accountable to them. My Government has also taken steps to strengthen the PRIs and make them viable units of local self government. The major initiatives are:

- Constitution of Ward sabhas, which will meet twice a year
- Ensuring transparency and accountability in the functioning of PRIs
- Increasing the statutory grant of Gram Panchayat from Rs. one lakh to Rs. five lakhs.
- Rationalization of schemes
- Constitution of District Planning Committees with the chairperson of the Zilla Panchayat as its head
- Making Adhyaksha the executive head of the Gram Panchayat
- Activity mapping and role clarity of functionaries.

40. My Government is conscious of the need for systemic improvements in the PRIs. As a step towards this, it is proposed to computerize all the Gram Panchayats in two years. 3100 GPs

will be covered during the current year. It is also proposed to devolve around 60 % of the district sector funds, approximately Rs. 60 lakh per GP, so that the Gram Panchayats become viable and effective units of local self government. All this would be steps towards Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Gram Rajya.

41. Negotiations are on with the World Bank for a specific project aimed at addressing regional imbalances, as highlighted in the Dr.Nanjundappa committee report. The strategy is to address poverty and backwardness in the 39 most backward taluks of the State, which are mostly located in northern Karnataka and Kolar, Chamrajnagar and Chitradurga in the southern part of the State. The World bank funding would be to the tune of Rs.170 crores per annum for five years.

42. The coming months are going to pose challenges in terms of difficult water supply situation. My Government is fully geared with measures to tackle the situation. An action plan for Rs.180 crores, for providing drinking water especially for 7175 habitations which are facing crisis, has been prepared and sent to the Government of India for assistance. I would earnestly appeal to the Government of India to respond positively to the situation and release sufficient funds, in time, to the State.

43. We welcome the Centrally sponsored "Swajaldhara" community based drinking water and sanitation program. Our people in the villages have responded very positively and 10% contribution is forthcoming inspite of the drought situation. We would again request the Government of India to release funds as promised in the scheme guidelines. Swacha Gram Yojane, taken up on Panchasutra basis in 1300 villages during 2002-03 is being completed. This will be taken up anew in 1000 villages at a cost of Rs. 10 lakh per village.

44. The State has made full use of the Sampoorna Grameen Rojzar Yojana (SGRY). Under this scheme, Rs.939.50 crores has been spent from Oct. 1999 to November 2003 generating 1703 lakh mandays. Nearly six lakh metric tons of foodgrains have been utilized from November 2001 till November 2003.

45. With over 34% of the population living in urban areas, our State is one of the most urbanized states in the country. To keep pace with the extensive urban growth in the recent years, my Government has taken several initiatives. The thrust has been improvement of quality of services as well as upgradation of civic infrastructure.

46. Public Private partnership has been the hallmark of our initiatives in this sector. The Bangalore Agenda Task Force has been recognized as a very effective model for providing platform to this kind of partnership and is being replicated in other States. The involvement of the citizen communities has lent fresh air and innovation in the area of urban administration.

47. The infrastructure development in Bangalore city has been remarkable. The Bangalore Mahanagara Palike has invested Rs.364 crores to upgrade the infrastructure of the city to match the city's reputation. These include extension of water supply and underground drainage in all wards, flyovers, grade separators, pedestrial subways, improvement of junctions and sidewalks, arterial and sub-arterial roads of over 500 kms, desilting and remodeling of storm water drains, rejuvenation of lakes for better flood management, rain water harvesting etc.

48. BMP is also making conscious efforts towards environmental upgradation. A comprehensive tree planting and development of parks has been taken up. The erstwhile Central jail premises is being developed as a "Freedom Park" for which the concept plan is developed.

49. For effective traffic management, the BMP has also undertaken three major parking projects on BOOT basis. A peripheral ring road of about 120 kms is planned to decongest the city.

50. Transparency and responsiveness are our thrust areas. Several initiatives like the SAS, computerization of birth and death registration, e-tendering, Prahari (round the clock surveillance system) mark my Government's firm commitment towards bringing in a citizen friendly governance.

51. The Bangalore Development authority has pursued its efforts in improving the infrastructure of the city. The BDA has completed and commissioned the flyovers at Central Silk Board and Hebbal. Rejuvenation of lakes and Benniganahalli and Agara and a shopping complex at HSR layout Hosur Sarjapur have been completed. The flyovers at Airport road, Dairy circle and Jayadeva hospital circle would be commissioned shortly. Renovation of Lalbagh including the restoration of Glass house at a cost of Rs. 16 crores is taken up. It is also planned to distribute 20,000 sites this year taking the total to 80,000 sites in the last three years.

52. The BWSSB has taken up extension of water supply to several suburban areas of Bangalore. It is proposed to supply Cauvery water to the 8 municipalities around Bangalore at an estimated cost of Rs. 500 crores. All these efforts have yielded very positive results. I am very happy to share with you the findings of the survey conducted by the Public Affairs Center which has rated the civic agencies over a set of parameters including responsiveness, satisfaction of services rendered etc. The survey has indicated that public satisfaction over services of civic agencies has increased significantly over the four year period. It is pertinent to mention here that this survey was done for general households as well as slum households. The Report Card has filled us with hope and enthusiasm that it is possible to show positive results and reiterates our resolve to continue our efforts.

53. My Government attaches high priority to improving the infrastructure of all urban areas in the State. The Karnataka Urban Water supply and Drainage Board has during the last one year, commissioned water supply schemes in 30 towns at an estimated cost of Rs. 162 crores. The Chitravathi project at Paragodu has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crores and is expected to be completed by February 2004. This project will address the water supply problems of Bagepalli and Gudibanda towns besides 88 villages.

54. The Asian Development Bank assisted project to develop 10 coastal towns at an estimated cost of 150 crores is continued

during the current year. Further, development of towns - Channapatna, Ramanagaram, Tumkur, Mandya, Maddur involving Rs. 60 crores is under progress. It is proposed to pose another project to the ADB seeking assistance for the development of 20 towns of Northern Karnataka and new districts.

55. Nirmala Nagara program implemented in 32 towns of the State is another major intervention in the are of urban development. This program aims at improvement of quality of life of citizens through infrastructure development and systems improvement. For the first time in the history of the State, a GIS based property tax collection system is being introduced and will be in place for six cities by October 2004. Also, 43 cities of Karnataka will be conputerised by April 2004. All these measures would go a long way in improving the quality of service delivery as well as the financial health of urban local bodies.

56. My government is extremely happy to share with you the immense success of the housing program in the State. We are racing towards an ambitious target of construction of one million houses in the State out of which, 8.5 lakh have already been constructed during the last four years. Another 3 lakh houses are under various stages of construction. This has been a watershed period in the history of housing programs in the State. Hon'ble members would appreciate the criticality of providing for shelter to the poor in the State and my Government would like to reiterate our commitment towards providing for shelter for all by 2005.

57. The tempo created in housing activity coincided with drought period in the State and this generated around 60 million mandays and pumped into the economy about Rs. 2000 crores, in which the subsidy itself was around Rs. 1000 crores. Special schemes were introduced for special occupational groups like artisans, beedi workers, hamals, leather workers and fishermen. Attention has been given to the backward taluks identified by the Nanjundappa committee and for those 39 taluks, 27000 additional houses have been allotted. Similarly, Gulbarga division was given special allotment. Special attention is also given to provide houses to people living in

Lambani tandas and 15000 houses have been allotted to them. Wherever houses are burnt down or washed away in floods, houses have been given to the affected immediately. Special housing program is being implemented for the rehabilitated people of the Almatti dam.

58. My Government attaches high priority in improving the living conditions of the urban people in slums. The Karnataka Slum Clearance Board has achieved remarkable progress during the last four years. Under the Valmiki Ambedhkar Awas Yojana (Vambay), the State has completed the entire target of 10,312 houses sanctioned for 2002-03. Government of India have further sanctioned 22,970 houses. During 2002-03, about 279 community toilets under Nirmala Bharat Abhiyan have been sanctioned and work will be completed by January 04 and 266 would be completed by May 2004.

59. The Karnataka Housing Board has introduced several reforms both in the area of building technology as well as in the area of customer service. A new project called "100 housing scheme" is being implemented with the collaboration of HUDCO at an estimated cost of Rs. 850 crores. Under this scheme, 15000 sites and 13500 houses will be built. Out of this, 12637 sites have already been formed and construction of 2117 houses are in progress. The Board has also taken up housing schemes at Suryanagar in Iglur Banahalli village near Bangalore jointly with HUDCO. In this scheme, 4000 houses for the weaker sections of the society and 5000 houses for middle and upper class people will be constructed. We have also reduced the interest rates charged by the Board and waived the penal interest as a measure of our commitment to provide quality housing to those who are in need.

60. Unsold flats in the National Games village at Koramangala have been completely sold. Another program called the "Chief Minister's Model Towns Housing Scheme" has been taken up. Under this, houses with a plinth area of 5 squares will be built on a site of 30'x40' at a fixed cost of Rs. 2.25 lakhs. This is being taken up in 176 towns of the State. 4 district office complexes are being built at Chamarajnagar, Bagalkot, Koppal and Haveri with the

state of art technology and would be ready by July 2004.

61. A vibrant and healthy business climate is the hallmark of a growing economy. I am happy to state that my Government is firmly moving towards this goal. A positive beginning was made in the Global Investors Meet of 2000 which has now been followed up by the Coastal Investors Meet in December 2003. Between these two, 150 mega projects with an investment of Rs. 59,625 crores and 601 large and medium projects with an investment of Rs.11,205 crores have been approved. 934 foreign direct investment proposals worth Rs. 7826 crores were approved. I am happy to state that Karnataka is the second largest recipient of FDI in the country.

62. Facilitation and creation of a business friendly environment remains a high priority for my Government. That is what makes any State favored destination among those willing to invest. An act to facilitate the conduct of trade and commerce in the State has come into existence with effect from December 2003.

63. Special Economic Zones have been proposed for Hassan, Bangalore and Coastal Zone. The bill awaits the Presidential assent. A proposal to set up a Special Economic Zone in the Hyderabad Karnataka region is under consideration. I am happy to share with you that the exports from the State record a consistent 25% annual growth reaching Rs.26279 crores. The State Export Promotion Policy 2002-2007 aims to see that the State's share in exports of the nation goes up to 15%.

64. Recognizing the importance of a building a symbiotic relationship between agriculture and industry, my Government has evolved the New Industrial Promotion Policy for Agro Food Processing Industries in June 2003.

65. We are equally committed to improving the lot of the small scale industry in the State. One of the most important steps in this direction has been the focus on the handloom industry, especially since a large majority of people in the relatively backward districts depend on this sector. I am happy to share that we are on the verge of coming out with a Weavers' package which would include

a comprehensive plan for skill upgradation as well as amenities like house-cum-worksheds for them. Similarly, focused efforts are being made in the Sericulture sector with provision of improved grainages, establishment of market linkages etc.

66. Entrepreneurship development remains a priority area for my Government. The New Industry Policy 2001 lays emphasis on infrastructure development, human resources development as well as technology upgradation. Karnataka Udyog Mitra and Karnataka Council for Technology Upgradation assist budding entrepreneurs to enable compete effectively in the market. Karnataka Industries (Facilitation) Act 2002 aims at providing for time bound approvals and facilitation for entrepreneurs. The Yeshaswini programme gives special thrust to women entrepreneurs. Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Parks – STEP – 12 of them have been set up in the State. Housed in Engineering colleges and technical institutions, these parks enable young engineers to venture into new domains, initially on a laboratory scale, before setting up shop on a commercial scale. The CEDOK – Center for Entrepreneurship of Karnataka conducts regular training programs for over 7000 potential entrepreneurs annually. The RUDSETI – Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institutes – cater to around 15000 budding entrepreneurs every year. These institutes are a fine example of partnering with the banking industry to give a fillip to both employment as well as industry.

67. As a continuation of our policy on disinvestment, my Government has identified 20 Public sector units in Phase I and 19 units in Phase II for privatization/closure. My government has already issued closure orders in respect of 13 units and privatization in respect of 4 units. We are conscious of the interests of the employees and VRS schemes have been introduced keeping that in mind.

68. That Karnataka remains the most sought after IT destination in India needs no reiteration. Hon'ble Members may recall the millennium IT policy which aimed to take IT to the common citizen and to further encourage the growth of the sector in the State. This

policy has acted as a catalyst for the tremendous growth of this sector bringing in an export revenue of Rs.38,238 crores in software sector, Rs.2805 crores in the hardware sector and Rs. 1252 crores in the ITES and BPO sector. All this accounts for more than 30% of the total national exports which is something all of us should be proud of. During this period, 951 software companies, 41 hardware companies and 89 BPO/ITES companies have set up their operations in Karnataka with a total investment of Rs.8686 crores. Karnataka has been acknowledged the knowledge capital of the country. We are today house to some of the best academic institutions like the iii-b. The spurt in relocation of BPO units to our state reflect the positive image of our State as the most suited destination for the rapidly growing service industry. My Government is committed towards creating a conducive climate to support this growth. One of the steps in this direction is the proposal to have a special statutory body for planning, developing and promoting the IT corridor on the eastern side of Bangalore city.

69. The Yuva.Com has been a unique initiative of my Government to spread the benefits of the IT sector growth across the State. More than one lakh rural boys and girls have acquired computer skills across 234 centres in the State.

70. Entrepreneurship development remains one of our priority areas. The establishment of KITVEN – the Karnataka Information Technology Venture Capital Fund in 1998 has the objective of encouraging entrepreneurship in the field of IT. Aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship in the State in the field of IT, the Fund till now successfully financed 11 start-ups (Rs. 9.2 crores) – funding ranging between Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 1.25 crores. Incubation centers with world class infrastructure and high bandwidth telecom connectivity have been established in collaboration with Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)., at Bangalore, Hubli and Mangalore.

71. My Government is also committed towards providing a conducive climate for the development of the Biotechnology sector in the state. During the last four years, 92 biotech companies have set up operations in Karnataka. These include R&D, drug and

pharma companies etc. and the total exports in this sector was Rs. 775 crores. To give a boost to this sector, it is proposed to establish a Biotech Park with state of art facilities. Promotion of entrepreneurship in the field of Biotechnology is another focus area. The Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology offers postgraduate and short term courses in cutting edge research technology. Biotech incubators offer technology facilities as well as advisory services. The Institute currently houses entrepreneurs working on computational modeling, modern diagnostics, genomics etc.

72. It is also proposed to start Karnataka Biotech Fund, through KBDC – Karnataka Biotechnology Development Council with a committed capital of Rs. 50 crores. This fund aims to provide finance to biotech enterprises in the State.

73. My Government is committed to creating a durable and modern infrastructure in the State. Work on Bangalore International Airport is set to commence shortly. Though the joint venture partners had been selected and the Shareholders Agreement signed in January 2002, other formalities like legal etc. took a long time. The airport is scheduled to open for passenger traffic by the end of 2006 and would establish Bangalore as a passenger and cargo hub apart from giving a fillip to tourism and exports.

74. Air connectivity to regional headquarters like Mangalore, Hubli and Belgaum has already been established. It is expected that Hampi and Gulbarga would be put on the air map during the coming year. Upgradation of Mysore airport is on the anvil. With the district headquarters emerging as growth centres, air connectivity would go a long way in giving a boost to the local economy. Reduction of sales tax on aviation turbine fuel has further given a fillip to the spurt in regional services.

75. There has been a considerable increase in the pace of development of rail infrastructure in the State. The Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company has been set up and is scheduled to complete broad gauging and open for traffic in a year's time. Sections of Sholapur-Gadag broad gauge line are proposed to be commissioned in a phased manner over the next two years.

76. Hon'ble Members would agree that our State is endowed with the best of prospects for tourism including eco-tourism, heritage tourism, health tourism etc. My Government is sparing no effort to capitalize on this and firmly place Karnataka on the must see itinerary of the traveller, both domestic and foreign. The Tourism Policy of the Government focuses on creation of tourism infrastructure and destination development. More than Rs. 50 crores has been spent towards these objectives. Development of tourism is also critical from the angle of employment generation apart from revenue generation. Public facilities have been improved in 129 tourist spots in the State. Karnataka participated in 96 exhibitions, marts, road shows etc. showcasing the state's tourist potential. All of these have increased the tourist arrivals in the State which stands at 12 million now. It is also pertinent to mention here that even in the face of a slow growth in the sector, post 9/11, Bangalore recorded the highest percentage of occupancy in the hotel accommodation in the country.

77. We are actively engaged in harnessing the tourism potential in the State by targeting emerging opportunities in areas like health tourism. The renown of health care institutions in our State has gone beyond our boundaries, when Noor Fatima the peace angel from across our nation's borders came to our State for treatment. My Government is committed to make our State the hub for health tourism in the country.

78. The Bangalore International Airport, the Bangalore Mysore Expressway etc. are all steps in the direction of making connectivity easier and faster. We will actively partner with the community and the private sector in building a viable and healthy tourism infrastructure.

79. My Government is committed to providing avenues for the youth to channelise their energies in a constructive fashion. The Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Shakthi Yojana is a step in this direction. Under this scheme, 8412 Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Shakthi Sanghas have been constituted in the State. Through these Sanghas, a forum has been created for the youth to engage themselves in construction

development of the society and actively associate in social and cultural activities.

80. During the last four years, fillip has been given to creation of sports infrastructure in the state. I am happy to state that over 15425 athletes and players have participated in national and international meets. 314 sportspersons have gained recognition and honor at the national level.

81. For the extensive use of Kannada in offices, my Government in collaboration with the Kannada Development Authority has brought out a software called "Nudi" which has been updated under the version of "Nudi 4". Karnataka can proudly claim to be the second state to have locally developed software for the regional language. The centenary celebrations of our national poet Dr.K.V.Puttappa from the 29th December 2003 for a year, would be held in a befitting manner.

82. One of the firm commitments of my Government is ensuring access to health facilities, especially to the poor in the rural areas. The Government's efforts are in the direction of creating infrastructure, positioning of personnel and development of affordable and modern health infrastructure in the State.

83. Recruitment of health personnel is being done on priority. Over 7000 medical personnel including doctors, para medicals etc. have been recruited over the last four years.

84. Partnership with NGOs and reputed private sector health care institutions set a new trend in health management especially in sunrise sectors of health. The district hospitals of Bidar and Chamarajnagar are linked with Narayana Hrudalaya in telemedicine ventures. The Bill Gates and Melinda Gates Foundation has sanctioned a project for the prevention of AIDS in the State. A vast network of STD clinics, Voluntary Conseling Training Centres (VCTCs) etc. have been set up in the State.

85. Upgradation of health infrastructure has been a priority. 204 hospitals, 21 district blood banks and 21 laboratories have been strengthened at a cost of Rs. 605 crores. The KFW project, with the aid of Government of Germany is being implemented in the northern districts of the State.

86. The Government is committed to the objective of providing food and nutrition security at affordable prices, especially to the vulnerable sections of the society. Several interventions have been taken up in this regard. In order to ensure that all the deserving avail of the Government assistance in the form of PDS, fresh identification of BPL families has been done. For the first time, a comprehensive database of BPL families including details ration shop wise, village wise etc. is available. The Government has introduced the Yellow Card Scheme to ensure that all food assistance reaches all those who are in need of it; there are 63 lakh BPL families in the state. This scheme is meant to assist those who cannot afford to buy food grains even at PDS rates. The Government is also making all efforts to ensure that the ration is distributed at prices which are affordable. The State subsidy amounts to Rs.340 crores. New initiatives taken up include issue of BPL cards to urban poor living outside declared and undeclared urban slums.

87. Over the last four years, there has been a steady increase in warehousing capacity. 50 godowns with a storage capacity of 2.12 lakh metric tons have been constructed during the last four years.

88. Education is one of the crucial thrust areas of my Government. It is our commitment to provide quality education as well as access to those who need Governmental support to pursue education. All interventions reflect this commitment of ours.

89. Primary schools have been provided in all habitations with a population of 200 and above. We have a large network of schools with over 51000 primary schools and 9500 high schools. More than 86 lakh children are studying in classes I to VII and around 19.5 lakh children are studying in classes VIII to X standards. Around 3.22 lakh teachers are working in these schools. Enrolment is increased significantly in recent years. Special enrolment drives like the Chinnara Angala, Baa Marali Shalege, Cooliyinda Shalege, Baa Bale Shalege etc. have resulted in increased enrolment. More than 8 lakh out of school children have been brought back to school in

the last four years. The drop out rate from I to V standards has come down from 15% in 1999-2000 to 8% in 2003-04.

90. I am happy to share with you the immense success of the mid day meal scheme – the Aksharadasoha in the State. Hon'ble members would agree with me that reduction of drop out rate especially among girl children is very crucial if the fruits of all our efforts in the area are to be materialized. The scheme which started in the seven northern districts in the State has been scaled up to cover the entire state with effect from June 2003. This scheme has made a huge impact. Hon'ble members would appreciate the enormity of logistics involved in opening and running of over 40,000 kitchens in the State and maintaining of a supply chain of ingredients to run a program like this. I am happy to share that over 38539 kitchens have been opened in 42805 schools. Over 44.40 lakh children are being given hot mid day meal in these schools. Rs.200 crore has been the provision for this program.

91. All this has started yielding results. Preliminary reports show that there is an increase of over 1.22 lakh children. This scheme has also been critically acclaimed by independent surveys. The survey conducted by the Centre for Equity Studies in the seven northern districts where the program was first started has brought out many positive features of this program. The initiatives taken by Karnataka such as provision of a nutritious menu, mandating that cooks should be women and a majority of them dalits etc. have made a positive impact. It is the firm commitment of our Government to keep the momentum and ensure that all children attend school free from the pangs of hunger, which would result in improved concentration levels and therefore better academic performance. This is the minimum we could do for our future generations.

92. Upgradation of school infrastructure is being taken up on a massive scale. Over 21000 classrooms have been constructed at a cost of over Rs. 101 crores. 35081 classrooms have been repaired at a cost of over Rs. 51 crores. Toilets and water facilities are provided to over 21000 primary schools. As part of Aksharadasoha,

kitchens are being constructed in the schools. 342 new high schools have been started during the last four years.

93. My Government is committed to give a fillip to girl child education. Towards this end, education has been made free for all girls upto XII. Apart from this textbooks and uniforms are being provided free of cost to all students in classes I to VII and girls from VIII to X standards.

94. To provide access to computer learning for children in Government schools, the Mahiti Sindhu program was introduced in 1000 selected high schools and PU colleges in 2000-01. Teachers training program is given a thrust and 5.24 lakh teachers have been given training in the last four years in institutions like DIETs, BRCs etc.

95. As a measure to give fillip to higher education, it is proposed to start a University in Tumkur from the next academic year. A Special officer has been appointed to do the preparatory work for this purpose.

96. To give greater thrust to womens' studies, my Government has set up the Women's University in Bijapur, which was also one of the specific recommendations made by the Task Force for Women.

97. I am glad to inform you that Karnataka is the first State in the country which is utilizing the services of the Education satellite being put up by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The E-learning centre of the Visweswarayya Technical University (VTU) has been recently established in Mysore with the main objective of providing quality distance education through satellite under the EDUSAT's project. ISRO will be installing the uplink facilities as well as reception terminals in all the engineering colleges of the State. The responsibility of program content development rests completely with the VU E-learning centre. A unique feature about this project is that 50 of the 114 centres are satellite interactive where students can ask questions live, from any part of Karnataka. This project is expected to commence by the end of January. The State is also taking advantage of the World Bank Technical Education

Quality Improvement Project (TEQIP). Karnataka is one of the six states assisted under this project and is in the second cycle. The objective of the project is to improve quality of technical education and enhance the existing capacities of institutions. Over 23 institutions including engineering colleges, polytechnics etc. are covered under this project costing Rs.325 crores.

98. Women's empowerment has been one of the main focus areas of the Government. With over one lakh groups covering 14 lakh women, the Stree Shakthi program has transformed the rural fabric of the State once and for all. Economic and social empowerment has been the mainstay of the program. The State Government has given assistance in the form of revolving fund to over 76000 groups. The vibrancy of the program in reflected in the sheer numbers – 35000 groups have taken up income generation activities, 20900 groups have availed of bank assistance. The total savings during the current financial year is Rs. 27.46 crores and the cumulative savings is to the tune of Rs. 146 crores. We are going a step forward and integrating these groups in all development activities in the state – for example Aksharadasoha. PDS etc. Priority is also given to the women's groups, in all the beneficiary oriented programs of the State. Under Udyogini scheme 4340 women have been sanctioned loans for taking up self employment, involving a subsidy of over Rs. 4 crores.

99. Santvana has been one of the major initiatives of the Government aimed to provide succor to women in difficult circumstances. 46 Santvana centers have been started functioning in the State. Under the Devadasi Rehabilitation scheme, 3966 women have been rehabilitated during the past four years.

100. My Government attaches high priority to child nutrition. The ICDS infrastructure has been upgraded with the addition of over 3000 centres. Another 1232 are under construction. Another new initiative has been the providing of amylase rich food – weaning food – is being supplied to all children in the age group of 0 to 3.

101. We are committed towards ensuring development of physically challenged and the senior citizens of the State. Old age

pension has been given to 4.36 lakh beneficiaries and Rs.200 crores has been spent during thé last four years. Free bus passes have been issued to 16700 persons with disabilities. Another 50,000 concessional bus passes are being issued during the current year. Maintenance allowance to disabled at the rate of Rs.125 per month is given to 3.18 lakh persons. 5% of Ashraya houses are earmarked in favor of the physically challenged.My Government proposes to make it mandatory for all educational institutions, both public and private, to provide for amenities for the physically challenged like ramps etc. Non compliance of this stipulation would result in the grant-in-aid being cancelled.

102. My Government is firmly committed towards the development of the vulnerable sections of the society. Many initiatives have been taken towards achieving this objective.

Special thrust has been given for providing housing schemes to the most vulnerable sections of our society. Under the Ambedhkar scheme, over 76000 houses have been constructed over the last four years.

103. Education is the stepping stone for the development of an individual. My Government attaches high importance to providing for access to education for the socially vulnerable sections of the society. Scholarships to students, opening of new hostels especially in the northern districts of the State, incentives for good performance etc. have been some of the initiatives in this regard. Computer skills are being imparted to unemployed youth at a cost of over Rs. 9.6 crores.

104. Another thrust area has been employment. Training for self employment under various schemes of the Corporations is taken up on priority. Under the Kausalya Scheme, training is being given to 4000 women to take up self employment. I am happy to share with you that our efforts to fill the backlog vacancies has yielded result – 17026 posts have been identified, of which 14,492 notified and 11,465 posts have been filled. A further 2727 are in the process of selection. 477 hostel superintendents and 846 kitchen servants have been recruited.

105. Infrastructure for hostels is important. Towards this a massive program of construction has been taken up. 214 SC hostel buildings and 11 ST hostel buildings have been completed during the last four years. Apart from this, 34 residential school complexes have been constructed. 100 OBC hostel buildings have been taken up with the assistance of HUDCO.

106. Under the SCP/TSP, Rs.1807 crores has been spent over the last four years benefiting 7.65 lakh people. Grant in aid amounting to Rs. 320 lakhs has been extended for construction of 90 Shadi mahals. The Ganga Kalyana scheme focuses on farming communities. 7295 borewells have been drilled and 9644 beneficiaries have been provided with pumpsets. About 20,000 acres of agricultural land belonging to SCs and STs and 7287 acres belonging to backward classes has been brought under irrigation.

107. A Commission to examine inter-se reservations has been set up under the chairmanship of Justice N.Y.Hanumanthappa, retired Chief Justice of Orissa High Court to ensure that the benefits of reservation reach those who deserve it the most.

108. I am happy to share with you that the last four years has been peaceful on the industrial relations front. Rs.135 crores was paid as workmen compensation benefiting 15394 families. In the year 2002, we launched the State action Plan for Elimination of Child Labor under which 314 bridge schools were started. 14235 children are studying in these schools.

109. Keeping in mind the welfare of the unorganized sector, a bill for the Welfare and Protection of the Unorganised sector was introduced. Minimum wages have been fixed for 64 scheduled employments. The National Law School and the Institute of Social and Economic Change have undertaken a study of the problems of contract workers and beedi workers and their recommendations would be considered to evolve a policy for their welfare.

110. My Government aims at giving high priority to irrigation and completion of ongoing projects remains our focus. There are 40 completed projects, 40 ongoing projects and 31 new projects in the State. Out of this, 36 are major projects and 75 are medium

projects. During the last four years, 9 projects were completed and 8 others are under final stages of completion.The Government is committed to utilize its share of water to the fullest extent, by completing all ongoing major and medium irrigation projects by the end of 2005. The Upper Krishna Project plans to utilize 173 TMC of Krishna water to provide irrigation to 6.2 lakh hectares in the drought prone areas of Bijapur, Bagalkot and Gulbarga districts. The work of Stage I-Phase III are nearing completion. Stage II works are expected to be completed by 2005. Till date 4.41 lakh hectares has been brought under irrigation.

111. The work of main canals and distributaries is being tackled by the Corporations – KBJNL, KNNL and CNNL. During the last four years, 3140 kms of canal works and distributary works have been completed resulting in providing irrigation facilities to 2.87 lakh hectares costing around Rs. 10,000 crores.

112. My Government is committed to involving farmers in the management of canal systems and in the command area. Water Users Cooperative Societies have been established in the command areas. 2510 societies have been formed so far. These societies are also empowered to collect water rates. MOUs have been entered into with 1450 societies. As a part of the drought relief measures taken by the Government, a total of 1150 kms of village roads have been formed under "Namma Hola, Namma Rasthe" wherein infrastructure has been formed utilizing the food component available from the Government of India. Formation of 500 kms of village roads under each CADA is under progress.To combat the severe drought situation, cloud seeding under Project Varuna was undertaken for a period of 90 days.

113. One of the most important initiatives in the minor irrigation sector has been the introduction of "Raitha Kayaka Kere". This is aimed at rejuvenation of tanks and 191 tanks have been taken up under the Food for Work program. So far Rs.8 crores of cash component and 17,923 metric tons of food grains have been utilized. Rejuvenation of 312 sick and defunct Lift irrigation schemes over a period of 4 years was started under the XI Finance Commission

grants from 2000-01. 94 schemes have been completed and the balance are in progress.

114. It is proposed to provide irrigation to 7291 hectares of land during the current year. As at the end of October, 1129 hectares has been brought under irrigation at a cost of Rs. 52 crores.With the intention of effectively using the waters of the west flowing rivers in the districts of Dakshin Kannada, Uttar Kannada and Udupi, a master plan has been prepared to construct series of Vented dams at an estimated cost of Rs. 295 crores. It is proposed to seek assistance from the 12th Finance Commission for this purpose. Implementation of this program will enable create over 39000 hectares of achkat area. Besides, we have also sought the assistance from the 12th Finance Commission to construct 403 kms of riverbank protection works at an estimated cost of Rs.183 crores. Under the Jalasamvardhane Yojane, 2000 tanks in 9 districts of Kolar, Tumkur, Bidar, Bellary, Chitradurga, Bagalkote, Haveri, Raichur and Koppal are poised for rejuvenation.

115. Connectivity is one area where this Government has put its best efforts. Rural road sector is a high priority area. I am happy to state that my Government is making all efforts to make optimum use of all assistance – from the Government of India as well as international funding agencies – to put in place a massive road network in the State. Resurfacing of 3435 kms of State Highway has been completed. Improvement of Old Madras-Cannonore within Mandya limits is near completion. 147 bridges at a cost of Rs. 110 crores taken up by the Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited has been completed within a record period of 30 months. The first phase of works of Bilikere-Belur and Jewargi-Bijapur road is also in the advanced stage of completion. The first phase of Gulbarga Ring road is completed upto 10 kms. An additional length of 4.6 kms in under progress. Hemagiri bridge across Hemavathi river at K.R.Pet has been completed at the cost of Rs. 4.10 crores.

116. Around 10,000 kms of rural roads have been upgraded as Major District Roads during this financial year. A total of 2170 kms

of rural roads have been improved and more than 80 bridges have been constructed during this financial year with the NABARD assistance.

117. Apart from this, the World Bank assisted KSHIP – Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project, is being implemented in full steam in the State. This project aims at improvement of 2269 kms of State highways and major district roads. 34 major bridges and 436 kms of State highways have been completed so far. With the NABARD assistance, 9750 kms of rural roads improved and 222 bridges have been completed. Under the Central Road Fund, a length of 1600 kms of State Highways and Major district roads have been completed at a cost of Rs. 138 crores. Under the Bellary package a length of 436 kms of State Highways and Major district roads have been improved. Under the Mandya package a length of 655 kms of State highways, MDRs and Village roads and bridges are taken up for improvement.

118. The four laning of Bangalore Mysore State Highway has started. Improvement of Raichur-Wadi at a cost of Rs. 58 crores is being taken with private sector participation with the financial contribution of Rs. 25 crores from three cement companies. To give a further fillip to the road sector, the State Government is in the process of constituting a dedicated Road Fund. This would be operational from the 1st of February, 2004. Rs.1.25 crores per constituency is being earmarked for taking up roads on priority basis. All these measures are apart from what is being done as part of the specific area packages being implemented by the Government. An amount of Rs.40 crores will be provided between now and March 2004 for road repairs and improvement in the State.

119. During this year, the Department of Ports and Inland Water Transport handled 7 lakh metric tones and cargo generating non tax revenue of Rs. 7.30 crores. It is proposed to take up development of minor ports such as Karwar, Belekeri, Malpe and Old Mangalore under the Sagar Mala programme. Shore protection works using French Stebi Plage Technology will be taken up at Ullal at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.73 crores with one third grants from the French Government and two thirds being our contribution.

120. Chronic power shortages have had an adverse impact on our state's economy. We are determined to make this a thing of the past. When the Karnataka Power Corporation was set up in 1970, it had a generating capacity of 746 MW. Over the last 33 years, the Corporation had added 3604 MW to its capacity. Now the KPC is implementing projects that would create 2675 MW of capacity over the next four years. These include the 290 MW Almatti Dam Power House which will be completed in June 2005. Mechanical rotation of the first unit of 15 MW is expected to be achieved by 31st January 2004. The contract for execution of 500 MW Bellary Thermal Power station has been awarded to M/s BHEL. This will be completed in 39 months and the power tariff is expected to be Rs.2 per unit, which is one of the lowest for a green field thermal project. During October 2003, my Government enhanced the capacity of the proposed gas based Combined Cycle Power plant at Bidadi to 1400 MW. This project is expected to be completed by March 2007. Karnataka Power Corporation has also taken up Unit 8 of 210 MW Raichur Thermal Power Station and the completion period is 28 months.

121. Several initiatives towards assured and efficient supply of power are being taken up. Under the OYT (Own Your Transformer) Scheme for irrigation pump sets, prospective IP set consumers can avail of the power supply to their installations by having small capacity transformers. This would ensure minimization of distribution losses and supply of assured power to the agricultural community. Similarly, the Gram Jyothi scheme wherein 24 hours power supply would be given to rural domestic consumers is proposed to be scaled up to cover the entire state in a phased manner. Apart from this, micro-controllers are proposed to be installed at all rural substations with a view to ensure the assured hours of three phase power supply to IP sets and other loads. The Government accords very high priority to the electrification of hamlets/harijan basthis etc as well as energisation of pumpsets.

122. The Varahi Stage II hydro electric project of 230 MW has also been cleared. This work is likely to be completed by March

2006. Uprating of Nagjhari Power house units 4 to 6 from the existing capacity of 135 MW of each unit to 150 MW will be completed by July 2006. I would like to bring to your notice that the Karnataka Power Corporation is now a three fuel power company using water, coal and wind to generate power and soon will become a four fuel company with the addition of gas.

123. Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation was able to bring down the Transmission and Distribution losses from 38% in 1999-2000 to 30.7% during 2002-03. The loss reduction was achieved on account of various system improvement works such as new sub stations, new transmission lines, installation of capacitor banks and new distribution transformers and increased vigilance against power thefts.

124. Karnataka has been one of the pioneer states in power sector reforms. The Karnataka Electricity Regulation Commission became functional in November 1999 and the Commission has passed three anuual tariff orders. My Government announced a detailed policy statement during January 2001, affirming its long term commitment to reform and restructure the power sector including privatization. The distribution function was unbundled from the KPTCL and four distribution companies were formed and made operational from 1st June 2002. To enable these companies to start with a clean balance sheet, Government took over liabilities of KPTCL to the extent of Rs. 1916 crores. An anti theft law was passed to curb theft of power and brought into force from 10th April 2002. Before the law was brought into force a regularization drive of unauthorized connections was conducted which resulted in the addition of 8.75 lakh consumers to the system. At present, the distribution companies are focusssing on revenue recovery and metering. My Government will ensure that power utilities remain firmly on the reform track.

125. Sunlight, it is said, is the best disinfectant. My Government is of the firm belief that e governance would lead to transparency and efficiency in administration. To give this focused attention, my Government, for the first time in the country, has created a separate

entity – the department of E-governance. Process reengineering, simplification of procedures are some of the main objectives of this initiative.

126. True to the stature of Karnataka as the country's premier IT destination, the Government has taken up **computerization** of governance, especially in areas of public interface. The Bhoomi project is a landmark in this direction. This has won national and international recognition including the Commonwealth innovation award. I am happy to share with you that this is being decentralized to village level and is being replicated across the country.

127. Computerisation of 215 treasuries is complete. With over Rs. 25000 crores being spent through Treasuries, "Khajane" has brought in transparency in the entire treasury operation. The backend process being equally critical, the entire Secretariat is wired through the Sachivalaya Vahini. Training to employees is being given in a phased manner.

128. Great strides in the area of governance reforms have been made. Transparency, accountability and responsiveness have been the hallmark of the initiatives taken by the Government. For the first time in the history of the State, a legislation aimed at bringing in transparency in procurement has been brought in. This has had a very positive effect in ensuring that all public funds are spent in a transparent and judicious manner.

129. The Government attaches high importance to ensuring access to information to the common citizen. As a major step towards this objective, the Right to Information Act and Rules has been notified. The State Government is committed to bring in accountability in financial administration. A full fledged office of Controller of accounts has been established. This coupled with computerization would go a long way in bringing in transparency in administration.

130. My Government constituted the Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission under the Chairmanship of Shri Haranahalli Ramaswamy to suggest measures to improve administration in the state. I am happy to share that some of the recommendations like

abolition of Divisional commissioner's offices, abolition of Stores purchase Department, reorganization of Commerce and Industries department etc. have been implemented.

131. I am happy to share with you the efforts made by my Government in the area of providing corruption and scam free governance. The Karnataka Lokayukta has been extremely proactive in investigating cases of corruption and financial misappropriation. The Government is matching this with vigorous penal action on those who have been found to be involved in official misconduct. 1934 cases have been filed by the Lokayukta of which 698 cases have been disposed.

132. This Government lays strong emphasis on public private partnership to facilitate development. The model of the Bangalore Agenda Task Force has been highly appreciated across the country as a vital platform for government and stakeholders interface. Similarly the various Task Forces set up by the Government have brought to table the best practices and recommendations on crucial sectors, most of which have since become part of the sectoral strategies.

133. My Government adopted a Medium Term Fiscal Reform Framework in 1999-2000. The fulcrum of this reform is the Fiscal Responsibility Act – a veritable fiscal Constitution for the State. Karnataka has been the pioneer among all states and has even led the Government of India in enacting this legislation. The fiscal performance of the state in the last four years reflects the dividends brought in by these reforms. The revenue expenditure has grown at about 10.7% in this period as against 15.5% in the four years before reforms. While expenditure on salary, pensions etc. was 18.4% before, it is 8.6% on average during the reform period. However, continuing high growth rate of interest payments at about 16% is a cause for concern. The important initiatives taken in computerization and e-governance as also drives launched to clear tax arrears through various Kara Samadhana schemes coupled with rationalization of tax administration have resulted in this positive trend.

134. A number of tax reform initiatives were taken in 2002-03 and 2003-04 which include abolition of turnover tax and infrastructure cess, abolition of entry tax on raw materials and other inputs, harmonizing of commodities into 5 rate slabs, introduction of 12 new professions into the professional tax net, introduction of betting tax on lotteries, strict compliance with floor rates on sales tax, reduction of stamp duty on conveyance for properties by about 2% and reduction of registration fees by about 1%, discontinuation of stamp papers, tax on SRTCs on par with private operators, setting up of Breweries Corporation to curb sale and production of seconds and initiation of independent third party inspections in management of distilleries, breweries and excise warehouses. In the area of much neglected non tax revenue, efforts have been made to revise stagnant user charge rates to ensure part cost recovery. Departments are encouraged to collect user charges by ensuring that a portion of the collection above budgeted estimated would be funneled back to them for administrative expenditure. It is encouraging to note that reforms have yielded a 15% growth on own tax revenues so far over the same period last year.

135. ನನ್ನ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ನನ್ನ ಸಹೋದರ ಸಹೋದರಿಯರ ಜೀವನಮಟ್ಟದ ಒಳಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಿಮಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲು ನನಗೆ ಸಂತೋಷವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸಹಕಾರವನ್ನು ಅಪೇಕ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಈ ಉನ್ನತ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನುದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ನನ್ನ ಸುಯೋಗ. ಹೊಸ ವರ್ಷ ನಮ್ಮ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಜನತೆಗೆ ಶಾಂತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮೃದ್ಧತೆ ತರಲಿ ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಆಶಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ವರ್ತಮಾನವನ್ನು ಹಸನಾಗಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಭವ್ಯ ಭವಿಷ್ಯವನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಲು ನಾವೆಲ್ಲ ಒಂದಾಗೋಣ.

ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ನನ್ನ ಆತ್ಮೀಯ ನಮಸ್ಕಾರಗಳು.

ಜೈ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ಜೈ ಹಿಂದ್

(ಸದನವು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12 ಗಂಟೆ 48 ನಿಮಿಷಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂದೂಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು
ಪುನಃ 20 ನಿಮಿಷಗಳ ನಂತರ ಸೇರಲು ನಿಶ್ಚಯಿಸಿತು)

(ಸದನವು ಪುನಃ 1.36 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸಮಾವೇಶಗೊಂಡಿತು)

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು (ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ.ವಿ. ವೆಂಕಟಪ್ಪ)ನವರು ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಪೀಠದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತರಾದರು

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು : ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪಕ್ಷಗಳ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊಸವರ್ಷದ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು. ಈಗ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರಿಂದ ವರದಿ ಮಂಡನೆ.